viz. rural population, rural populations managing Rural Water Supply (RWS), States under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) and special category hill states in terms of rural areas.

National Health Insurance Scheme

2327. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make comprehensive National Health Insurance Scheme covering diseases, treatment/surgeries classified and broadbased specialities, by extending the coverage of the scheme to all poor and middle income group persons, specially old age persons upto minimum of 75 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No. However, Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana [RSBY] for workers of Unorganized Sector and their families from 01.04.2008. There is no age limit for coverage of the scheme for dependent parents within the definition of family of five members. Details of the Scheme are at the website of RSBY ***www.rsby.in.***

Deaths due to trial of Pneumonia Vaccine

2328. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been some deaths of infants due to trial of Pneumonia Vaccine;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government has ordered enquiry of the vaccine trial; and

(d) if so, complete details of enquiry report and action taken against the drug firm?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) There was a report of serious adverse events regarding death of a subject involved in a clinical trial of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine at one of the site in the country. A team was constituted by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to investigate the matter, which conducted the inspection at the said site. The Inspection revealed various Good Clinical Practices (GCP) violations. Therefore the concerned investigator, sponsor and monitor were issued warning letters asking for corrective actions to be taken by them to prevent such violations in future. The clinical trial remains suspended at all the twelve sites from 06.11.2008 to 22.04.2009. The sponsor submitted various corrective actions taken to ensure GCP compliance. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) scrutinized the same

and decided to revoke the suspension on 23.04.2009 from all the sites except the inspected site. Further, the monitor and investigator of the inspected site also submitted details of corrective action taken by them, based on which the suspension from the inspected site was also revoked on 02.06.2009.

Relaxation to OBC students for admission to MBBS

2329. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Council of India has prescribed 50 per cent of marks for General category candidates for qualifying examination as well as entrance examination, and 40 per cent of marks for candidates belonging to SC/ST categories for admission to MBBS course;

(b) whether for admission of SC and ST students in the All India quota reservation at the rate of 15 per cent and 7-1/2 per cent respectively has been introduced from the academic year 2008-09;

(c) whether on above pattern, any relaxation and quota have been provided for OBC students; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) The 15% reservation for SC and 7.5% reservation for ST is being implemented under 15% All India Quota from academic year 2007-08.

(c) and (d) The cut off marks for OBC candidates is 40 percent and 27% reservation has been provided under 15% All India Quota in the Central Medical Colleges from the academic year 2009-10 onwards.

Patent of medicinal plants

2330. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we lost more than 15,000 patents of our medicinal plants to the West;

(b) if so, how many such patents were opposed during the last five years;

(c) the number where our claims were upheld; and

(d) whether the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, containing documentation of over two lakh medical formulations will safeguard our interests in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) In a study carried out in the year 2000 by the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)